Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West

by

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Which land would you like to live in?
The northern part of Oz

- "Full of cities and universities and theatres, civilized life, they say. And industry." (Maguire 52)
- "...on the border between Gillikin and Munchkinland - 'are the emerald mines and the famous Glikkus canals" (Maguire 53)
Munchkinland

The eastern part of Oz
• "Farmland, the bread basket of Oz, except down in the mountainous south--these strokes, in the district of Wend Hardings, are the hills you're climbing." (Maguire 52)
• Has dense forests
• "Munchkinland is rich and desirable farming territory..." (Maguire 52)
Quadling Country

The southern part of Oz

• "Badlands, I'm told--marshy, useless, infested with bugs and feverish airs." (Maguire 52)

• "But the Quadlings, Oh the Quadlings, Slimy stupid curse-at-godlings, Eat their young and bury their old" (Maguire 68)
Winkie Country

The western part of Oz
• "Don't know much about that except it's dry and unpopulated." (Maguire 52)
The witch is spying on the four companions: The Lion, The Tin Woodman, The Scarecrow, and Dorothy

- Overhears their conversation about the rumors and information they heard about the witch
  - **What did each of the companions say related to the witch?**
- The witch was determined to see Dorothy's face
  - Unsure if Dorothy should be taken seriously because of her farmgirl appearance
- A storm is approaching; Dorothy and her companions go off to find some shelter
  - As they walk away, the witch sees Dorothy wearing her sister's shoes and gains the desire to acquire them
Characters

- Brother Frexspar
- Melena Thropp
- Elphaba
- Nanny
- Turtle Heart
Brother Frexspar

"Father" of Elphaba
- Has a feeling he may be getting cheated on, but does nothing to find out the truth (Quote on page 10)
- Minister
  - "But I'm descended in a direct line from six ministers before me, father to son." (Maguire 34)
  - Very religious, trying to steer people in the direction of the Unnamed God. (Quote on page 12 "We stand at a crossroads..."
  - Although he says he is not into earthly or material things, he gets peoples attention by trying to become more attractive (Quote on page 11)
- From Munchkinland
  - Is tall man, though
- Had a side which "...verged on despair; unlike most men, he was able to channel it to benefit his life's work" (Maguire 13)

Do you believe that Frex is the father of Elphaba?
Melena Thropp

Mother of Elphaba
• Comes from higher nobility
  ◦ "It's not that I don't love Frex! But I hate being better than the local peasant idiots!" (Maguire 36)
• Munchkinland
  ◦ Is tall though
• Feels Frex chooses ministering over family
  ◦ Quote on page 10 and 13
• Promiscuous since she was younger and as a married woman
  ◦ Mother of 2 children whom the father may not be Frex
  ◦ Quote on page 36
• Desperate for affection and attention whenever Frex leaves for ministry
• May have been raped by an elf or other species, which could explain Elphaba's green skin
• Chews pinnoble leaves and drinks heavily
Elphaba (baby)

Daughter of Melena "and" Frex

- Born with green skin, pointy nose, and sharp teeth
  - "We can't let it. It has extraordinary teeth, Nanny. It has shark's teeth, or something like." (Maguire 30)
  - "...and the baby's mouth and ears were strapped with a sling. The nose looked like a knob of bad mushroom, poking up for air, and the eyes were open." (Maguire 32)
  - Quote on 34 about why she had to be slinged
- First word was "Horrors"
- Sees things in the looking glass (like Turtle Heart)
- Before being able to speak, Elphaba was said to have capabilities of being able to understand conversations
  - "'You confuse not speaking with not listening,' said Nanny. 'I think she understands plenty.'" (Maguire 59)
- Avoided water at all costs

Monday, April 9, 2012
Nanny

• Took care of Melena since she was younger
  ◦ Pulled out of retirement because of Melena

• Very keen on small details
  ◦ Knows about Melena's secrets
  ◦ Senses something about Elphaba most didn't

• Has a key role in raising Elphaba
  ◦ After Melena passes, Nanny assists Frex in raising and caring for Elphaba and her siblings

• Very wise because of her experiences in life
  ◦ "No, no, you pretty little pampered hussy. We don't go on having babies, that's quite apparent. We only have babies when we're young enough to know how grim life turns out." (Maguire 12)

• Showed the most care and compassion towards Elphaba, although green and disgusting; even if it wasn't 100% real compassion.
  ◦ "'I wonder to whose music? Such well-developed muscles! No, you're not getting away from me. Come here, you little demon. Nanny doesn't care. Nanny likes you.' She was lying through her teeth, but unlike Frex, she believed some lies were sanctioned by heaven." (Maguire 33)
Turtle Heart

Glassblower from Ovvels, in Quadling Country

- Great with Elphaba
  - Has a good understanding of her
  - "'She is herself pleased at the half things'" (pg 51)
- May be the father of Melena's second child
  - Sleeping with Melena while Frex was out on ministry
- Handsome
- Main objective was to seek mercy for Quadling Country by meeting with Ozma
  - Kept to himself mostly so it was surprising to hear him talk about his past
- Clueless about the lands within and around Oz
  - Gets lost and becomes a guest of Melena and Frex's home
  - Open minded about new subjects
    - Willing to learn

Why was he described in such detail?

Monday, April 9, 2012
Quick Questions

- Do you believe that Turtle Heart and Elphaba actually saw anything in the looking glass?
- Does this foreshadow anything for the rest of the book?
- Does this foreshadow anything for the Wonderful Wizard of Oz?
Frex leaves Melena to try and help the denizens of Rush Margins overcome "pleasure faith"

- Frex arrives at Rush Margins, but is cast to the side as the Clock of the Time Dragon came along
- Frex is then pulverized by his "congregation" and is saved by a goodwife
- Melena endures the birth of their child, Elphaba, without Frex
  - They find out that the baby is green
- Nanny is asked to help take care of Elphaba
  - Melena explains that she gave passerbys a meal and buoyant conversation
    - She was given a, "...heady brew from from a green glass bottle" (38) and doesn't recall her night
  - Frex gets ready for an exorcism of his child
    - After much preparation and hope, he fails
- Turtle Heart comes to the front gate of Melena and Frex's home
  - Melena invites him in
  - Turle Heart makes a glass circlet
  - Melena and Turtle Heart do the dirty deed
Volume Summary (continued)

Frex comes home with Nanny to see a guest in their home
  ◦ He gives Elphaba a toy sparrow which she enjoys
  ◦ Frex has been scorned by the people because of what happened with the Time Dragon and because of his green child
• Frex and Turtle Heart get to know one another
  ◦ explains geography of Oz
  ◦ talks about the the Unnamed God, Ozma, Lurline, and the dragon beneath Oz
• Melena and Nanny talk about Melena's promiscuous actions with Turtle Heart (who is living with them)
  ◦ Nanny blackmails Melena to take Elphaba to Rush Margins to interact with the other children
• Elphaba goes to the home run by Gawnette
  ◦ is taken there every 2nd or 3rd day
• Turtle Heart talks about his past
  ◦ Elphaba says her first word, "horror"
  ◦ explains how workers from Emerald City wanted to make a highway, the Yellow Brick Road
  ◦ People were also trying to find their wealth in the red rubies in his homeland
Elphaba runs away and hides with the looking glass
- Turtle explains what he/Elphaba sees in the glass
  ■ "A balloon from the sky, the color of a bubble of blood: a huge crimson globe, a ruby globe: he falls from the sky. The Regent is fallen. The House of Ozma is fallen. The Clock was right. A minute to judgment." (pg 80)
- Elphaba seems to be sitting in front of a beast, "Behind her was a low growl. There was a beast, a felltop tiger, or some strange hybrid of tiger and dragon, with glowing orangey eyes. Elphaba was sitting in its folded forearms as if on a throne." (Maguire 80)
Volume II: Gillikin
Characters

- Galinda
- Elphaba
- Madame Morrible
- Ama Clutch
- Dillamond
What's your 1st impression of Galinda?

Was she anything like what you had first imagined?

From wealthy family in Gillikin
- Conceited
  - Thinks she can sweet talk out of any problem
  - Tries to move conversations towards herself
  - Gave no thought about school, just went for the social aspect of meeting people
  - "She had considered her admission into Shiz University as a sort of testimony to her brilliance, and believed that she would adorn the halls of learning with her beauty and occasional clever sayings." (Maguire 97)
- Goes to Shiz University
- Slow when it comes to learning
- Roommates with Elphaba
  - Blames Ama Clutch for getting paired up with Elphaba
  - Lies about Ama Clutch to avoid living in a 15 person dormitory
- Didn't attend to Shiz to learn
  - "What the girls wanted wasn't equations, or quotations, or orations--they wanted Shiz itself. City Life. The broad, offensive panoply of life and Life, seamlessly intertwined." (Maguire 97)
- Tried her hardest to fit in with the rich crowd
  - Played "spy" and talked crap about Elphaba
  - Quote on page 105
Moved from Munchkinland to Quadling Country
• Student at Shiz University
• Roommates with Galinda
• Still green
  ◦ Looked down upon because of this
• Very reserved and quiet
  ◦ Keeps to herself and her books
• Interested in getting Galinda to think and participate in discussion with her
• Still avoids water
• Looks poor to other students
  ◦ Quote on page 92
Madame Morrible

Headmistress of Crage Hall
- Gillikinese woman
- Racist
  - clever at "hiding" it through her choice or words
- Writes poetry
- Has a fishlike appearance

Why was she described in such detail also?
Ama Clutch

Galinda's chaperone from the main family
- Becomes both Galinda and Elphaba's chaperone
- Enthusiastic
- Because of her ordeal, she was the reason Elphaba became Galinda’s roommate
  - had stepped on a nail before coming to Shiz University and had to be taken to the hospital
Dr. Dillamond

Professor at Shiz University for Biological Arts

• Is an Animal
  ◦ a goat

• Faces racism
  ◦ on train, laws, and by Madam Morrible

• Knowledgeable in politics of Oz
Volume Summary

Galinda meets Dillamond on the train ride to Shiz

- She meets Madame Morrible and is given a room, but is put into the Pink Dormitory with everybody else
  - asks to be put in separate room
  - Madame Morrible assigns her with Elphaba
    - Galinda explains (through a lie) that her Ama Clutch is confused
- Galinda makes friends Milla, Pfannee, and Shenshen; all from wealthy families
  - Thropp moved from Nest Harding to Quadling Country
- Galinda and Elphaba "hang out" for the first time
  - Galinda tries to make Elphaba look embarrassing so that she can tell her friends
    - finds out that Elphaba looks very nice with her hats on
Does Evil really exist? Or is it simply a person’s perspective that determines what is evil and what isn’t?

Galinda and Elphaba have deep conversation about evil and whether or not it really existed

• Ama Clutch tells Galinda that there was no storm and that it was very calm, even though Galinda and Elphaba had hail and wind break the latch of the window to come in

• Galinda goes off to her new friends and gossips about Elphaba behind her back

• Madame Morrible holds a poetry soiree
  ◦ male students were invited from other schools, as well as faculty (Animal included), and students of Shiv University
  ◦ Both poems end with cleverly worded political statements
    ■ People didn't approve of the poems
    ■ Animal faculty stormed out because it wasn't poetry but "propaganda"

• Elphaba sits next to Galinda (in public) and talks to her about what had just happened
  ◦ Galinda doesn't like Elphaba sitting next to her talking because it ruins her reputation
A boy from Munchkinland comes up to the two girls, and introduces himself as Master Boq
- He knows Elphaba
  - they went to the same day care when they were younger
- Son of the Mayor of Rush Margins
- Elphaba makes rude remarks about Boq and leaves
• Dr Dillamond interrupts his class to call for a response about the poem by Madam Morrible
  - nobody makes any comment
  - Dillamond explodes and tries to tell the students about the political significance that is going on in Emerald City by the Wizard
    - tells them about the Banns on Animal Mobility
  - Students still don't understand why he's so upset
  - Elphaba approaches the emotional Dillamond after class
• Madam Morrible has open lecture on Early Hymms and Pagan Paeans
  - Elphaba asks to discuss the Quells
  - Madame Morrible embarasses Elphaba
Second semester comes around, and Galinda tries to get another roommate again, but Madame Morrible says no

- Madame Morrible suggests Galinda to take sorcery
  - says that if she chooses sorcery she might be able to get a new roommate
  - tells Galinda that Elphaba is taking natural sciences

- Galinda starts to feel more unease towards Madame Morrible

- Madame Morrible explains that Elphaba's sister is coming to Shiz University soon
  - seems that Madame Morrible really does not want Elphaba's sister to come to the school

Why do you think Madame Morrible call Galinda a “pet” (Maguire 119). Does this foreshadow anything?